

DATE: March 23, 2015

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 8: Consideration of resolution authorizing a contract for consulting services to assist with the RMC 2015 Grant Guideline update consistent with language from Proposition 1: Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (2014 Water Bond) RMC14005

RECOMMENDATION: That the RMC approve a contract for consulting services with Jose Gardea of Urbanism Advisors to assist with the RMC 2015 Grant Guideline update for consistency with bond fund requirements in and associated with Proposition 1: Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014.

BACKGROUND: With the passage of Proposition 1 (2014 Water bond), the RMC is well positioned to continue to provide grants through a competitive process to cities, non-profits, county entities, and joint powers authorities by utilizing existing grant funding program areas:

1. **Urban Parks:** Census tracts within project service areas that meet the disadvantaged community criteria of more than 30% youth and less than 80% of the state's average annual income.
2. **Rivers & Tributaries:** Projects which include riparian habitat/wetland restoration and extend or enhance recreational trail corridors.
3. **Mountain & Foothills:** Property acquisition that is necessary to maintain critical wildlife corridors and/or have at least 10 target species on site.

As part of the enacted water bond legislation, the RMC, along with the other 9 statewide conservancies must align grant guidelines and hold a 30 day public comment period prior to issuing Proposition 1 bond funds. These public workshops will be specifically geared towards making sure the proposed Grant Program Guidelines are updated for consistency with the intent of the water bond and to officially request and document comments from potential grantees and the public at large. The workshops will also help inform RMC Staff on lessons learned from previous rounds of competitive grants, the last being in 2007.

Due to limited RMC staff capacity and need for this specialized work, staff is seeking approval of a contract for consulting services to supplemental guideline development activity. In preparation of this critical 2015 Grant Guideline update, RMC staff contacted both the San Gabriel Valley COG and the Gateway Cities COG for a list of consultants that could provide these necessary services. The Gateway Cities COG response included consultants that focus primarily on air quality issues (Verdugo-Peralta) and another one whose focus was statewide issues, not necessarily a local Conservancy like the RMC (Kennedy Communications). Other consultants were contacted but were either not responsive or unavailable according to this specific scope and timeline.

Staff is recommending that the Conservancy continues to work with Jose Gardea of Urbanism Advisors. Mr. Gardea has done work with the RMC, most recently as the consultant that wrote the Environmental Justice Policy for the Conservancy which was approved by the RMC Board on November 24, 2014 (Resolution 2014-19). In addition, Urbanism Advisors (UA) is in the final

stages of completing a summary of project concepts that may be eligible for funding. RMC retained UA to identify and contact all 68 cities within the RMC territory in order to obtain a representative project list of unrestrained need; projects that may be submitted in the upcoming 2015 Call for Projects. The goal of this exercise was to get a general sense of watershed related project need and a relative sampling of the overall perspective on unrestrained dollar requirements from cities within the RMC territory in order to help inform a funding rollout strategy for the RMC. Initial responses show an unrestrained project funding need of over \$286,662,330.

Urbanism Advisors has exhibited a high level of professionalism and timeliness in carrying out the work requested thus far. It's crucial to maintain continuity as we seek to provide a competitive funding program. With the short timeframe and proposed schedule for the update of the 2015 guidelines, the RMC staff is recommending using the services of Jose Gardea: Urbanism Advisors for this work.

The proposed scope of work includes the following tasks through July 31, 2015:

Scope of Services:

- Review and update existing RMC Grant Guidelines (March-June 2015)
- Review and update existing RMC Project Evaluation Criteria (April-June 2015)
- Prepare and co-facilitate with RMC staff at 4 public workshops (April-May 2015)
- Comparable analysis of two statewide conservancies also receiving Proposition 1 funds to ensure consistency with schedule and/or similarities with RMC grant guidelines (May-June 2015)
- Preparation of Final Guidelines and Report of Outcome (June-July 2015)

Urgency

The scope of services and schedule submitted by Jose Gardea: Urbanism Advisors is consistent with the RMC's proposed schedule for the 2015 Grant Guideline Update, which was presented at the January 26th, 2015 RMC Board Meeting and has been approved by the Natural Resources Agency. The schedule is similar to the other 9 statewide conservancies, with slight differences. Several Conservancies have begun holding Proposition 1 Guideline development workshops during the month of March, including the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (March 19th); Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy (March 24th, 25th, April 15th); and Coastal Conservancy (March 20th). However, at this point, the RMC runs the risk of being behind schedule if this work is not begun immediately. The schedule that has been proposed is as follows:

Date	Action
March 1-May 2015	Update Grant guidelines consistent with Proposition 1
April-May 2015	Public Workshops Begin (3-4 Total)
May 18, 2015	RMC Board Review of 2015 Draft Grant Guidelines
June 2015	Resources Agency Reviews Revised Grant Program Guidelines, provides feedback
July 27, 2015	RMC Board Approval of 2015 Grant Guidelines, including Project Evaluation Criteria
Fall 2015	Call for Projects
Fall/Winter 2015	Review of Applications
December 2015/January 2016	First Possible Grant Award Recommendations by RMC Board-Tier 1 Projects

Upon approval of this action, Urbanism Advisors will coordinate with RMC staff to begin immediately scheduling the four workshops in coordination with San Gabriel Valley COG, the Gateway Cities COG, the Orange County COG and the Antelope Valley, our northwestern most section of the RMC territory. This large scale regional effort will be made to make sure all 68 cities and potential grantees are invited including non-profit organizations, other public/private conservancies, and joint powers authorities, and any others eligible to apply for funding. Once these public workshops take place and public comments are received and recorded, Urbanism Advisors will update and help finalize the Grant Guidelines based on recommendations and comments received.

In addition, Urbanism Advisors will perform a comparative analysis with two other statewide conservancies to ensure consistency and/ or similarities to the RMC, as well as a schedule of their grant roll out. This will also include attending one or more of the conservancies' public workshops. The RMC Project Evaluation Criteria (PEC) which was included as part of the Grant Program Guidelines will specifically be reviewed and updated, as well as any other items that may come up during this process.

Finally, it is anticipated that the 2015 Grant Guidelines will have to incorporate key statewide priorities including elements of the California Water Action Plan, and the Human Rights to Water emphasized by the Office of Governor Gerry Brown. There will also be an element that will focus on Environmental Justice since that is now an official policy adopted by the RMC board in November 2014.

At the January 26, 2015 RMC board meeting, the Board approved Item 11: Consideration of a resolution authorizing negotiations for a consulting services grant to complete mapping tools for the competitive grants program (RMC15102). After researching the need for a mapping tool, RMC staff concluded that there are a variety of statewide mapping resources available that we can use for the upcoming 2015 competitive grant process (Fall 2015). Some of these mapping tools include the California State Parks Community Fact Finder and the Cal EPA's EnviroScreen, among others. The funding for this consulting agreement will be used for this contract instead. The following are links to the mapping websites:

Community Fact Finder: <http://www.parkinfo.org/factfinder2011/grantee>

Cal EnviroScreen: <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/ces2.html>

See the attached Exhibit A: Scope of Services, Schedule and Budget.

FISCAL INFORMATION: The proposed budget associated with this work submitted by Jose Gardea: Urbanism Advisors is \$25,000. This work will take place upon approval and continue through July 31, 2015, approximately 4 months.

Funding for this project will be allocated from the RMC Grant Program under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) and authorize grant funds for the Executive Officer to enter into negotiations for authorizing a contract for consulting services to assist with the RMC 2015 Grant Guideline update consistent with language from Proposition 1: Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (2014 Water Bond).

Funding for this project will be allocated from Proposition 84:

75050. The sum of nine hundred twenty eight million dollars (\$928,000,000) shall be available for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources in accordance with the following schedule:... (g) The sum of seventy two million dollars (\$72,000,000) shall be available for projects within the watersheds of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers according to the following schedule:
 (1) \$36,000,000 to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy pursuant to Division 22.8 (commencing with Section 32600).....

75060. The sum of five hundred forty million dollars (\$540,000,000) shall be available for the protection of beaches, bays and coastal waters and watersheds, including projects to prevent contamination and degradation of coastal waters and watersheds, projects to protect and restore the natural habitat values of coastal waters and lands, and projects and expenditures to promote access to and enjoyment of the coastal resources of the state, in accordance with the following schedule:.... (3) To the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.....\$15,000,000.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES: The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) statute provides in part that:

Section 32602: There is in the Resources Agency, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles rivers and Mountains Conservancy, which is created as a state agency for the following purposes.

(d) To provide for the public's enjoyment and enhancement of recreational and educational experiences on public lands in the San Gabriel Watershed and Lower Los Angeles River, and the San Gabriel Mountains in a manner consistent with the protection of lands and resources in those watersheds.

Section 32614: The conservancy may do all of the following:

- (b) Enter into contracts with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties, and enter into a joint powers agreement with a public agency, in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 32602.
- (e) Enter into any other agreement with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties for the purposes set forth in Section 32602.

Exhibit A: Scope of Services, Schedule and Budget

March 11, 2015

To: Mark Stanley, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

From: Jose A. Gardea, Urbanism Advisors

RE: Proposal and Scope of Services for Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
Prop. 1 Guidelines and Project Roll-Out Evaluation

Urbanism Advisors (UA) appreciates the opportunity to submit this scope of services to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for services related to the Prop. 1 guideline and project roll-out evaluation, as required by state legislation. UA proposes the following services, schedule, and budget:

Scope of Services:

- Review and update existing RMC Grant Guidelines
- Review and update existing RMC Project Evaluation Criteria
- Prepare and facilitate with RMC staff at public workshops
- Comparable analysis of two statewide conservancies also receiving Proposition 1 funds to ensure consistency with schedule and/or similarities with RMC grant guidelines
- Preparation of Preliminary and Final Guidelines Reports

Task 1: Review and Update Existing RMC Grant Guidelines and Project Evaluation Criteria

UA will conduct a review and update to the 2007 RMC Grant Program Guidelines to ensure they are consistent with the California State Proposition 1 water bond program guidelines. At this time, we will also initiate a review and update to the RMC's Project Evaluation Criteria and suggest modifications to some of the values and sub-values, expand specific values such as, the Water Resource/Quality Element, and add a category to the value list – for example, projects addressing environmental justice principles and/or serving disadvantage communities.

Deliverable:

- Review and update of 2007 RMC Grant Guidelines
- Review and update of RMC Project Evaluation Criteria

Task 2: Prepare and Co-Facilitate Public Workshops

UA will assist RMC staff with the preparation and co-facilitation of four state mandatory public workshops to solicit feedback and recommendations from the public on RMC grant guidelines and project evaluation criteria. At these meetings,

we will record the comments from the public and assist with compiling the data which will be used to assist UA in the review and update of RMC's grant guidelines and project evaluation criteria.

Deliverables:

- Assist with the preparation and co-facilitation of public workshops with RMC staff (4 scheduled), as well as gathering of data during the meeting, and summary notes.

Tasks 3: Comparable Analysis

UA will conduct a comparable analysis of RMC grant guidelines with two other statewide conservancies. We will review the California Coastal Conservancy and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy guidelines and project criteria to look for consistencies and/or similarities to the RMC, as well as schedule of grant roll-out. As part of this task we will conduct research and request meetings with conservancy staff to gather information. This may also include attending one or two of the conservancies' public workshops (if they are being held during the term of this work scope).

Deliverable:

- Data request from California Coastal Conservancy and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, review and analyze best practices.
- Summary report.

Tasks 4: Final Guidelines Summary

Based on our review of RMC grant guidelines, project evaluation criteria, comparable analysis, feedback and recommendations from the public workshops, UA will complete its guideline and evaluation criteria analysis and prepare a draft final summary to submit to RMC staff. Subsequently, UA will work with RMC staff on finalizing the final summary. We will also work with RMC staff to prepare the final board report and attend the RMC Board meeting to answer questions from board members.

Deliverable:

- Final draft guideline and project evaluation criteria summary
- Work with RMC staff to prepare final board report
- Attend RMC Board Meeting and present proposed updates to the RMC Board

Schedule & Budget

Task	Month	Cost
1. Review and Update Existing RMC Grant Guidelines and Project Evaluation Criteria	April-June	\$8,000
2. Prepare and Co-Facilitate Public Workshops with RMC Staff	April-May	\$5,000
3. Comparable Analysis	May-June	\$4,500
4. Final Guidelines Summary and Report	June-July	\$7,500
TOTAL	4 Months	\$25,000

January 26, 2015 – Item 8

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 – 06

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) TO AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES TO ASSIST WITH THE RMC 2015 GRANT GUIDELINE UPDATE CONSISTENT WITH LANGUAGE FROM PROPOSITION 1: WATER QUALITY, SUPPLY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014 (2014 WATER BOND- RMC 14005)

WHEREAS, The legislature has found and declared that the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills, and San Jose Hills constitute a unique and important open space, environmental, anthropological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, and wildlife resource that should be held in trust to be preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of, and appreciation by, present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of California have enacted the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, which provides funds for the RMC grant program; and

WHEREAS, The RMC may enter into contracts with any public agency, private entity, or person necessary for the proper discharge of the conservancy's duties, and enter into a joint powers agreement with a public agency, in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 32602.

WHEREAS, The consultant has submitted a proposal which is consistent with the purposes of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code and the Bond Act; and

WHEREAS, this action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and NOW

Therefore be it resolved that the RMC hereby:

1. FINDS that this action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Act and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code.
2. FINDS that the grant is consistent with the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014, which provides funds for the RMC and upcoming grant program.
3. FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
4. ADOPTS the staff report dated March 23, 2015.
5. AUTHORIZES the Executive Officer to authorize a contract for consulting services with Jose Gardea: Urbanism Advisors in the amount of \$25,000 to assist with the RMC 2015 Grant Guideline update consistent with bond fund requirements associated with Proposition 1: Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (RMC 14005).

~ End of Resolution ~

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY on March 23, 2015

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST:

Terry Fujimoto
Deputy Attorney General